

HOUSE No. 1125

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, petition of Peter J. Koutoujian and others relative to the teaching of teen dating violence policies in the public schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Peter J. Koutoujian	Karyn E. Polito
Patricia D. Jehlen	Mary E. Grant
Susan C. Fargo	Pamela P. Resor

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE TEACHING OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 2B the following section:—
3 Section 2C. All school districts in the Commonwealth shall
4 implement a specific policy and discipline code to address teen
5 dating violence in public schools. The Department of Education
6 shall develop a model policy that school districts may adopt and
7 provide technical and legal assistance to school districts in devel-
8 oping written teen dating violence policies and procedures.
9 Such policies shall clearly state that dating violence will not be
10 tolerated and shall include guidelines for addressing alleged inci-
11 dents of dating violence. Such policies may include a teen dating
12 violence prevention task force comprised of staff, students and
13 parents to provide awareness training and education for the school
14 community. Such policies would include defining the issue of teen
15 dating violence, recognizing warning signs, identifying issues of
16 confidentiality, safety and appropriate legal school-based inter-
17 ventions.

1 SECTION 2. Section one of chapter seventy-one of the
2 General Laws shall be amended by inserting in line nineteen after
3 the words, “emotional development”, the following words, “safe
4 and healthy relationships with a focus on preventing sexual and
5 domestic violence”.